



Special Education Programs

SPED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME!

Special Education Programs would like to welcome Che Fon (Fon) to the Department of Education. Fon began working as the SEP Data Manager on December 2nd and comes to us from South Carolina. Fon is very eager to begin looking at South Dakota's special education data to assist the state and districts with improving outcomes for children.

IDEA Compliance MOE

DOE is moving the compliance portion of the IDEA MOE to the GMS. It will be similar to how you filled out the eligibility portion of the FY20 MOE. We are currently in the testing phase. We are hoping the compliance MOE will be ready in the GMS for all districts mid to end of December. Everyone will be notified by email from Robyn Seibel when it's ready and a webinar will be set up to review how to fill it out.

DOE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Common Course Code changes approved for 2020-21 school year

The South Dakota Department of Education reviews and updates the Common Course Codes on an annual basis. Several changes to the Common Course Numbering System have been approved for the 2020-21 school year. The new codes will be added to the PRF system when the PRF system reopens for the 2020-21 school year.

Tools and Resources For Addressing English Learners with Disabilities:

Department of Education created, "The [English Learner Tool Kit](#) helps state and local education agencies help English Learners (ELs) by fulfilling these obligations." Chapter 6 of the document specifically addresses ELs with disabilities regarding evaluation and requirements.

Abilities Dedication
Acceptance
Inclusion Evolving
Independence
Special Access
Individual Success
Unique Education
Accommodating Integration
Hope Achieve
Opportunity Challenges
Participation
Understanding

SPED STAFF:

[Linda Turner](#), Director

[Wendy Trujillo](#), Assistant Director

[Rebecca Cain](#), Program Specialist

[Che Fon](#), (Fon) Data Manager

[Melissa Flor](#), Program Specialist

[Jodi Berscheid](#), 619 Coordinator

Vacant, Program Specialist

[Beth Schiltz](#), Program Specialist

[Brandi Gerry](#), Program Specialist

[Lindsey Bomesberger](#), Secretary

[Regional Representative List](#)

Contact: 605.773.3678

[NEXT SPED DIRECTOR CALL:](#)

December 17, 2019 - 10am CST

Connect through Adobe Connect:

<https://taese.adobeconnect.com/sdta/>

Conference Line: 888-387-8686

Participant Code: 608 991 0201

Agenda Items:

- ◆ Accessible Media for students who are blind or visually impaired
- ◆ MOE
- ◆ Alternate Assessment
- ◆ PPWN
- ◆ BDI2

SPED PROGRAM FEATURE PRESENTATION

STATE OFFICES CLOSED

The Special Education Staff will not be available on the following days due to state offices being closed for the holidays:

- ◆ Monday, Dec. 23rd
- ◆ Tuesday, Dec. 24th
- ◆ Wednesday, Dec. 25th
- ◆ Tuesday, Jan. 1st

Some SEP staff may be taking additional time off, so if you get an extended absence message from your regional representative and need immediate assistance, please call (605)773.3678.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



FEDERAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

South Dakota NAEP scores hold steady

South Dakota scores on the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as the Nation's Report Card, are mostly steady and remain at or above national scores. Bright spots include state scores in eighth-grade math and fourth-grade reading.

Not all students in the state are given the assessment, only a random sampling. Student only take a portion of the assessment so there are no district scores, only a state score. The NAEP assessment is given every other year with 2019 being the most current assessment year.

The most current NAEP information can be found on the interactive [NAEP](#) website. This allows for comparisons to other states. It also provides information about different subgroups such as special education, English Learner, gender, and race/ethnicity.

The [South Dakota NAEP](#) website has previous NAEP information posted as well as informational facts for districts and principals.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION RESOURCES

Tale of Two Conversations This popular video resource has been updated. The two-part series shows a parent of a child with a disability and a school administrator demonstrating poor communication skills and then provides the positive alternative.



Considering Mediation for Special Education Disputes: A School Administrator's Perspective This pamphlet describes, from an administrators perspective, the benefits of participating in mediation to solve special education disputes between parents and educators.

DOE DIVISION HIGHLIGHT

Division of Learning and Instruction

This division oversees academic content standards, instruction, assessment and teacher recognition. In addition, this division provides services and supports to districts and schools to support learning and achievement for all students

Contact Information: (605) 773-2490

Content Standards: <https://doe.sd.gov/contentstandards/>

Assessment: <https://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/>

COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE READY
PREPARING SOUTH DAKOTA STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(Click on the titles to go to the registration site)

New Sped Directors Webinars

This series of webinars is directed at new special education directions (0-3 years) is provided as an overview of responsibilities as a special education director. Topics include Leadership and Management, Accountability/RDA, Child Count, Dispute Resolution, State Performance Plan (SPP), and Fiscal/Budget.

3:00pm - 4:30pm CT

- **Webinar 1: CANCELLED**
- **Webinar 2:** October 9th
Accountability/RDA
- **Webinar 3:** November 14th
Child Count
- **Webinar 4: December 12th**
Dispute Resolution
- **Webinar 5:** January 9th
State Performance Plan
- **Webinar 6:** February 6th
Fiscal & Budget Responsibilities

You must register for each webinar separately to receive contact hours.

BDI-2 Online Learning Modules

- Six modules on using, administering, scoring, interpreting, and fidelity of the BDI-2
- For teaching and supporting Early Childhood educators and providers
- Complete at own pace
- Available for undergraduate, graduate credit or 1 CEU (15 hours)

SAVE THE DATES

Save the Date: Top 20 Training

July 28-30, 2020 in Chamberlain More details coming soon!

Summative Assessment Winter Workshops

The dates for the annual workshop for the state summative assessments have been set. Each workshop is scheduled from 8:30 am—4:00 pm local time. Registration is open.

- Jan. 28—MacKay Bldg—Pierre
- Feb 4—STI—Sioux Falls
- Feb 5—STI—Sioux Falls
- Feb 6—LATI—Watertown
- Feb 13—WDTI—Rapid City
- Feb 25—Skype Virtual Meeting (3:30 -4:30 CST)

SAVE THE DATE

Dr. Anita Archer training! The SD Council for Exceptional Children is bring in Dr. Anita Archer for the Sioux Falls Summer Institute. This training will be held on the Augustana campus on June 2 and 3, 2020. Registration will open after the holiday break.

SAVE THE DATE

“Developing Brains Matter!”

South Dakota Early Childhood Conference
April 23-25, 2020
Sioux Falls Convention Center
Registrations beginning January 15, 2020.
<https://sdececonference-org.doodlekit.com/home/index>

DOE TOPICAL GUIDANCE RESOURCES

What is considered a “referral” to special education?

Referral includes any written request which brings a student to the attention of a school district administrator (building principal, superintendent, or special education director) as a student who may be in need of special education. A referral made by a parent may be submitted verbally, but it must be documented by a district administrator. Examples of sources of referrals include the following (*not an all-inclusive list*):

- (1) Referral through screening;
- (2) Referral by classroom teacher;
- (3) Referral by other district personnel;
 - ⇒ Failing grades
 - ⇒ Retention
 - ⇒ Little academic progress when receiving interventions
 - ⇒ Limited or no progress with 504 Plan and accommodations
 - ⇒ Behavior concerns such as:
 - Depression, withdrawal; inattention
 - Increased hyperactivity or organizational problems
 - Behavior Plan has not been effective
 - Chronic absences
 - Increased disciplinary referrals
- (4) Referral by other public or private agencies; and
 - ⇒ Reports from medical professional which may include:
 - Medical Diagnosis
 - Mental Health or chronic health issues (hospitalizations)
 - Medical professional suggests need for an evaluation or services
- (5) Referral by private schools, including religious schools.
- (6) Parent requests and/or sharing of private evaluation information